

TO: Mayor and Council Members  
Marlene Best, City Manager  
Shawn Hagerty, City Attorney

FROM: Annette Ortiz, CMC, City Clerk

DATE: October 27, 2021

**SUBJ: UPDATED COUNCIL MEETING MATERIALS – OCTOBER 27, 2021**

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The attached correspondence for Non-Agenda Public Comment was received and is provided for your consideration.



**From:** [Judi Strang](#)  
**To:** [John Minto](#); [Rob McNelis](#); [Laura Koval](#); [Ronn Hall](#); [Dustin Trotter](#)  
**Cc:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Marijuana businesses in Santee cost far more than any taxes received  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 11:56:18 AM

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Good afternoon City Council.

I am writing to you as a parent advocate in response to the recent UT article about Santee moving forward with marijuana businesses moving forward because they fear on an industry dictated initiative.

Have no fear. There is no data that says you won't be successful if the City pushes back by signing the ballot argument against at election time, if the initiative gets to that point.

Otherwise your citizens are at the mercy of out-of-town moneyed interests with slick mailers with untrue statements.

And don't be fooled about arguments that Prop 64 was a mandate for marijuana business..IT WAS NOT. It was about personal possession and cultivation (six plants) not about the commercialization of marijuana. And it clearly included local control which is why only 25% of CA Cities allow marijuana businesses.

Meanwhile these out-of-town Marijuana business people and their attorney like the one you heard from on the 13<sup>th</sup> try to sell city council on the idea that allowing dispensaries is a revenue source for economic development for a City.

That is not true and has never been true.

The only one who makes money are marijuana businesses whose business plan is to increase use by those already using pot, and by creating new users, probably young.

Marijuana businesses in Santee would cost far more than any taxes received > in staff time and enforcement re problems to neighborhood. Also marijuana businesses are very litigious re decisions City Councils and staff make all along the application and vetting process.

Marijuana businesses bring promotions that are attractive to youth, and visible pot shops that normalize its use for young people.

This is an unwise and unhealthy idea.

Regards, Judi Strang,  
Health Committee, Ninth District PTA  
County Office of Education

**From:** [Kathleen Lippitt](#)  
**To:** [Clerk Info](#)  
**Cc:** [John Minto](#); [Laura Koval](#); [Ronn Hall](#); [Dustin Trotter](#)  
**Subject:** Santee City Council, Wednesday, October 27, 2021 - non-agenda public comment.  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:17:12 PM

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Good evening Mayor and Council,

As a PH practitioner I have strived to provide research and policy information that is free of economic conflict of interest or bias. Santee is one of many cities in the County that have concluded that they are in an untenable position with limited options when confronted by pressure to allow marijuana business activities into their city.

Contrary to the assertion in last week's UT that Santee had plans to authorize cannabis shops, the issue is still being considered and weighing these options as to how they proceed. It is presumptuous to infer the city will defer to marijuana interests *"despite concerns from locals and the council."* Locals are their constituents, not marijuana advocates.

When trusted city electeds have chosen to write opposition arguments to counter misleading marijuana industry messaging they can and have prevailed. City electeds have a far greater capacity to expose the poison pills buried in their messaging or in marijuana industry written initiatives than voters.

Informed voters will be able to determine who deserves the greater credibility, the industry or trusted elected.

The marijuana industry has often used a number of bullying tactics to push their way into cities. A common one is the claim that Prop 64 was a mandate and the "surveys" they cite confirm support. But survey instruments have many potential biases; leading or biased questions, questionnaire bias, or interviewer bias to name just a few. The goal is to influence the outcome.

Contrary to the marijuana industry's assertion, Prop 64 was NOT a mandate. And was never about creating a commercial marijuana industry but decriminalizing personal possession and use. Further, Prop 64's paid signature gatherers provide such an example when paid signature gatherers asked

potential signers leading questions. When potential voters were asked whether they wanted to protect children from marijuana or eliminate the black market, responsible adults were anxious to sign their petition. But neither Prop 64 nor local regulatory promises by the marijuana industry have fulfilled promises to eliminate the black market, lower DUI's, ensure product safety or protect the environment.

Please don't let marijuana industry prioritize their profits over maintaining the city of Santee's high community standards for public health, safety, and welfare of its residents.

Thank you,

Kathleen Lippitt, MPH  
Public Health Practitioner and Public Policy Advocate  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Cell: [REDACTED]

**From:** [Kelly McCormick](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Non-Agenda Public Comment, 10.27.21  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:57:07 AM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing to you as a Public Health Educator with a focus on youth alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention.

I have seen, first hand, the harmful effect that marijuana commercialization is having on teens and young adults. Use of marijuana is becoming normalized with high-THC concentrates making up the bulk of sales at pot shops. These products have a profoundly negative impact on brain development and mental health for users under 25.

The marijuana industry claims that regulating marijuana businesses will end the black market but there is no evidence to support that. In fact, a recent Los Angeles Times article stated, "Today, the pot industry is struggling and as much as 80% of pot sold in CA comes from the black market." Just yesterday, Politico published an article with the headline, "California's legal weed industry can't compete with the illicit market."

It's more evident every day that this experiment is not working. The black-market continues to grow, despite what people were told when they voted on Prop. 64 five years ago. Making matters worse, we now have aggressive marketing campaigns for marijuana, driving up demand for a drug that is more addictive and more dangerous than ever before.

Industry-backed ballot initiatives can be defeated. Solana Beach is one of many cities that have done so.

Sincerely,  
**Kelly McCormick**

**From:** [Peggy Walker](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Learning through experience  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 26, 2021 5:32:15 PM

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City Clerk: Please distribute this to the following and add to the public record for the City Council meeting 10/27/2021. Thank you.

TO: Mayor Minto, Vice Mayor Koval, and Council Members Hall, McNelis and Trotter

RE: Consideration of Permitted Marijuana Businesses

Your report details many excellent reasons NOT to permit MJ commercialization. I'd like to add one more: a statement by Robert Correy, the founding father of legalized pot in Colorado, who recently stated he **deeply regrets his efforts**. Correy said his effort was built on the false notion marijuana is safer than alcohol. He changed his opinion because of the high THC potency in today's current products, wreaking havoc on the state's children and medical and treatment communities. *"The outcome of Prop 64 is shameful, hurts people, and Colorado is not 'safer,'" Correy wrote in The Colorado Springs Gazette.*

Legalization resulted in *"a commercialized, for-profit, elitist, government-protected, privileged, monopolistic industry that perpetuates itself and its obscene profits, to the detriment of the public good and the planet earth," Correy stated.* Examination of pot businesses in San Diego and other municipalities confirm his conclusions.

Some of the bad outcomes Correy regrets include:

- A "pot lobby temper tantrum" against proposed legislation to cap THC levels in commercial pot. (In Europe anything over 15% is considered a "hard drug.")
- Government officials declaring marijuana businesses "essential" while schools, churches, and gyms were shut down during the pandemic.
- The practice of indoor growing for the sole purpose of genetically altering plants to produce supercharged THC levels, and the fact this is bringing in environmental pests that require powerful chemicals, pesticides, and herbicides, and whose "toxic carcinogens are ingested by the consumer or run off directly into Colorado's scarce water."
- The impact on youth and health
- The law he helped write violates federal law.

There is no better education than learning from other's mistakes. Please consider Robert Correy's regret over a law that has changed Colorado irreversibly, is a detriment to residents and quality of life, and robs children of their innocence and childhood.

We don't want the same regrettable outcomes in Santee. Please don't allow commercial businesses here. Consumers can purchase online, drive a few miles down the road, or draw on the new super delivery hubs like Calvia's (Amazon-like)

direct-to-consumer platform in Chula Vista. These super hubs will deliver *anywhere* at *anytime* and allow credit accounts for easy payment. They likely will soon dominate the industry to the detriment not only of local permitted dispensaries but the public good.

You can Read Robert Corey's Gazette op-ed [here](#) or in the National Families In Action, April 2021 edition <https://saynotodope.org.nz/2021/04/08/a-founding-father-of-colorados-legal-pot-reveals-regrets/>

*Regards,*

*Peggy Walker*

Public Health Educator and Child Advocate,  
Coastal Communities Drug Free Coalition  
San Diego County Tobacco Control Coalition



**From:** [Terri-Ann Skelly](#)  
**To:** [Dustin Trotter](#); [Ronn Hall](#); [Laura Koval](#); [Rob McNelis](#); [John Minto](#); [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Do not bring marijuana businesses to town  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:38:42 AM

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Hello City Council members.

I am Terri Skelly, and I am a parent of three young adult sons, who I am encouraging to get a good education and jobs in these confusing times.

I wonder if we all really comprehend what would be the consequences of the having marijuana storefronts in town, with its pervasive signage and advertising. This visibility and promotion - threatens, sabotages, and diverts the lives of young people who may well decide that an acceptable form of relaxation, diversion or digression, is getting high.

Sometimes it has been suggested that permitting of marijuana storefronts will control the black market. This promise that unpermitted retail markets would go away is a ridiculous industry assertion that is absolutely not supported by the data.

In fact, in the recent Forbes magazine, an article written by a long time marijuana proponent stated that:

“By most estimates, California’s illicit cannabis marketplace is anywhere from twice to three times as big as the legal market. It’s highly likely no amount of enforcement can ever make the illicit market go away forever.”

Please do not move forward with bringing marijuana businesses forward. If a ballot initiative does come your way, every city that counter it with a strong campaign against the initiative succeeded in prevailing with a win. Only those cities that waffled and did not respond lost that battle. But even then by a small margin.  
Santee CAN find the battle.

Thank you.

Terri-Ann Skelly  
